on the global communication network;

determining if there exists a match between the unique scan ID code associated with the scanning information and the extracted product code information in the database;

if there is a match, returning the associated network routing information regarding the associated remote information source location on the global communication network back to the user location; and

interfacing a user at the user location to the remote information source location in accordance with the returned network routing information.

29. (Amended) The method Claim 28, wherein the step of scanning with the provided scanner comprises the step of decoding information in the product code, which product is encoded in a first format to output a value that can be assembled with the unique ID code in the routing packet.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated July 3, 2002. Applicants have amended Claims 22, 25 and 29 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claims 22-31, rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,978,773 Hudetz et al. (*Hudetz*), in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,288,976 Citron et al. (*Citron*), this rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Regarding Claim 22, the Examiner is correct in that *Hudetz* does not teach "associating a unique

scan ID code with the scanning operation, which unique scan ID is uniquely associated with the location of the scanner on the global communication network."

However, *Hudetz* also does not teach "assembling a packet of information comprised of the extracted product code and the unique scan ID code to provide a routing packet."

While *Citron* discloses a "barcode reader 5 . . . identifiable . . . by a unique identification number" (Col. 4, lines 58-61), there is no disclosure of the use or purpose of this identification number in *Citron*. Thus, while this disclosure in *Citron* may arguably supply a teaching absent in *Hudetz* as noted by the Examiner, it does not cure the other deficiency in *Hudetz*, required by Applicants' Claim 22, of "assembling a packet of information comprised of the extracted product code *and* the unique scan ID code to provide a routing packet" (emphasis added). Thus, the combination of *Citron* with *Hudetz* fails to anticipate or obviate the entirety of Applicants' invention recited in Claim 22.

Further, Applicants' Claim 22 is amended with the phrase "at the user location" to clarify that the routing packet which combines the extracted product code and the unique scan ID code is assembled *at the user location*. This amendment further clarifies the distinction of Claim 22 from *Hudetz*, in which an HTML document containing records having UPC numbers associated with URLs is assembled *at the web server database then returned to the user* (host computer). The HTML document returned to the user in *Hudetz* is clearly *not* (a) a routing packet that is (b) assembled at the user location.

Applicants also respectfully point out that Applicants' Claim 22 expressly associates the unique scan ID code *with* the scanning operation. This is to be contrasted with *Hudetz*, which, upon scanning the UPC symbol, to enter the UPC product identification number, merely transmits the scanned data (as an ASCII character string) to the web server. See Col. 8, lines 32-44.

Regarding Claim 25, rejected under the combination of *Hudetz* and *Citron*, Applicants

respectfully respond to the Examiner's remarks as follows. In the Office Action, the first step of Claim 25 is quoted but it substitutes the phrase "product information source locations" for the actual language of the claim which is, from lines 5, 6 and 7, "product codes, unique scan ID codes and routing information associated with remote information source locations." Applicants respectfully point out that the statement of the first step of Claim 25 appearing in the *Office Action* misstates Claim 25. Moreover, there is no disclosure in either reference of the combination of product codes, routing information associated with remote information source locations, *and* unique scan ID codes. Further, the Examiner asserts that the second step of Applicants' Claim 25 is fully disclosed is *Hudetz* Col. 7 line 1 to Col. 9 line 21. However, Applicants respectfully point out that since Hudetz lacks a unique scanner ID code and neither reference supplies a motivation necessary to combine one with the other in a manner recited in Applicants' claim, the asserted combination of *Hudetz* and *Citron* cannot perform this step of "determining if there exists a match between the unique scan ID code associated with the scanning information and the extracted product code information in the database." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 25 fails because of the inability of the combination of *Hudetz* and *Citron* to fully disclose or suggest the combination recited therein.

As to the Examiner's comments on the source of motivation to combine *Citron* with *Hudetz*, Applicants respectfully point out that all that *Citron* discloses is a unique reader ID "*assigned* to the reader in an initialization procedure during which the reader is granted access to the system" (emphasis added). Col. 4, lines 59-63. This assignment of the reader ID is automatic - it is an *issuance* of an ID, not an authentication of attempted access. Therefore, it does not provide the function of a password or a signature intended to control access. Thus, again, the motivation to combine these two references is supplied by the recitations in the Applicants' claimed invention, not in *Hudetz'* desire to control access.

Claims 25 and 29 are amended to provide a proper antecedent basis.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that *Hudetz* in combination with *Citron*

fails to anticipate or obviate Claim 22. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of Claim 22 as amended is respectfully requested. Further, since each of the remaining Claims 23-31 depend directly or ultimately from independent Claim 22, the rejections of these claims under the same pair of references is now moot. Applicants thus respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 23-31 and the full allowance thereof.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,583 of HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants

Gregory M. Howison
Registration No. 30,646

GMH:jk

P.O. Box 741715
Dallas, Texas 75374-1715
Tel: 972-479-0462
Fax: 972-479-0464
October 2, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

22. (Three Times Amended) A method for obtaining information regarding a source of a product from a remote information source location on a global communication network utilizing a product code associated with the product and unique thereto, comprising the steps of:

scanning the product code associated with the product with a scanner at a user location on the global communication network to extract the information contained in the unique product code therefrom;

associating a unique scan ID code with the scanning operation, which unique scan ID is uniquely associated with the location of the scanner on the global communication network;

assembling a packet of information <u>at the user location</u> comprised of the extracted product code and the unique scan ID code to provide a routing packet; and

connecting <u>the user location</u> to the remote information source location utilizing the routing packet and in response to the step of scanning, wherein the routing packet is representative of the location of the remote information source location on the global communication network through an association with a routing table.

25. (Amended) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of connecting comprises:

transmitting the routing packet from the user location to a predetermined intermediate location on the global communication network, wherein the intermediate location has a database associated therewith that provides in a stored routing table having the associations stored therein a correlation between product codes, unique scan ID codes and routing information associated with remote information source locations on the [web] <u>global communication network</u>;

determining if there exists a match between the unique scan ID code

associated with the scanning information and the extracted product code information in the database;

if there is a match, returning the associated network routing information regarding the associated remote information source location on the global communication network back to the user location; and

interfacing a user at the user location to the remote information source location in accordance with the returned network routing information.

29. (Amended) The method Claim 28, wherein the step of scanning with the provided scanner comprises the step of decoding information in the product code, which product is encoded in [the] a first format to output a value that can be assembled with the unique ID code in the routing packet.